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Joy Hall to Sarah Bracher, 9 October 1898

Cossack

North West Australia

Oct 9<sup>th</sup> 1898

My dear Aunt Sarah

I am almost ashamed to write to you after such a prolonged silence, my only plea is that I am a "little champion" at procrastinating, but that is a very weak one is it not?

During the last few months we have had people staying with us, together with a chain of gaieties, so that the usual monotonous routine has been thrown on one side, for the time being, there have been Dances boating excursions & [?riding] through the quagmires (which was unavoidable, since the Willy-willy destroyed the only way of exit from Cossack).

The Season closed in August with the Masonic Ball, the Masons did not display much regalia, in fact they were quite eclipsed by the ladies. Aubrey was the only member of our family who represented one of the Brotherhood.

Miss Kate Logue one of cousin Tillie's sisters has been staying here, before she left, we gave a Progressive Euchre Party in her honour. We were informed indirectly, that it was an "unqualified success" it was certainly great fun at the time, but the mildest pleasures cannot be enjoyed without an excess of trouble especially in this "last place of creation".

Cousin Eva was here & Mr Brundrit also, he was the most hilarious of the party, he is working pretty hard now. Eva left last month for Mundabullangana Station, she has gone as governess to Mrs McKay's one little girl, I do not think the life will be intolerably dull, as there are a few "Colonial experience men" on some of the out stations.

I suppose you have heard Aunty, that Eva brought Georgia Egerton-Warburton back with her to live or rather stay at Yandyarra. But as the stock are being removed to the lowlands their plan did not eventuate, so Georgia stayed with us most of the time, we were sorry she had to leave before the fun was all over.

Val is away on the Ashburton mustering my brother's cattle, they have taken up some run about 170 miles out, & Val is going to manage the place, of course he will have a share, his wife is staying with her sister on the Tableland. Aunty will you tell me once more, were those cousins of yours in England the Wiltons, your Mother's sister's children, I should like to know, not that I am ever likely to visit England. I think there's a better chance of me going to Japan.

Some of the men at the Whim Creek Copper Mine that were keeping themselves in reserve until the Xmas exemption, broke out in wild revelry, and became hopelessly paralytic (otherwise drunk) when they heard of Sir H H Kitchener's brilliant victory near Khartoum.

Goodnight Aunty,  
Your loving niece  
Joy H M Hall